

Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-12, 14 and 17-19 are pending.

All pending claims stand rejected under Section 102 as being anticipated by Yamamoto (6553431).

Claim 1 requires a simultaneous display of first icons representing different duplicators and a single second icon that actuates the duplicators selected with the first icons. Claims 14 and 19 are method and computer media counterparts to the user interface of Claim 1 and contain similar limitations. None of the icons in the display shown in Figs. 9A and 9B of Yamamoto actuates any of the scanner or printers represented by the scanner and printer icons. The Office's apparent assertion to the contrary is not correct. Clicking the "OK" icon in the display of Yamamoto Figs. 9A and 9B establishes a "virtual" connection between a scanner 1 and printers 2 and 3. Yamamoto, column 10, lines 59-66. Clicking the "OK" icon does not actuate either the scanner or the printers. Subsequent acts initiated at the scanner or the printers are required to establish a physical connection between the devices, transfer image data to the printers and then actuate the printers to print the images represented by the image data. See Yamamoto, columns 11 and 12.

If the Office disagrees, it is respectfully requested to specifically point out and explain those passages in Yamamoto that teach or even suggest that clicking on the "OK" icon in Figs. 9A and 9B actuate the scanner or the printers. Absent such a showing, the rejection of Claims 1, 14 and 19 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-6 and 8-9 and Claims 17-18 also distinguish over Yamamoto due to their dependence on Claims 1 and 14, respectively.

Further with regard to Claim 4, Yamamoto does not teach that the actuation of plural duplicators occurs in the chronological sequence selected by the user. The passage in Yamamoto cited by the Office in support of the rejection of Claim 4, column 19, lines 6-9, describes the use of DATA FORMAT values coincident with input and output device profiles. These values specifically, and this passage in Yamamoto in

general, have no apparent relevance to the sequence in which output devices are actuated. For this additional reason, Claim 4 distinguishes over Yamamoto.

Further with regard to Claim 5, Yamamoto does not teach that the actuation of the plural duplicators selected by the user occurs simultaneously. Figs. 9A and 9B in Yamamoto cited by the Office in support of the rejection of Claim 5 and the accompanying text at column 10 says nothing about the order in which the printers are actuated – simultaneously, chronologically or sequentially (or even the order in which data is transmitted from the scanner to the printers). Figs. 9A and 9B have no apparent relevance to the added limitation in Claim 5. For this additional reason, Claim 5 distinguishes over Yamamoto.

Further with regard to Claim 6, Yamamoto does not teach a user interface displaying a choice for actuation of plural duplicators chronologically, sequentially or both. The passages in Yamamoto cited by the Office in support of the rejection of Claim 6, column 12, lines 5-16 and column 19, lines 6-9, describe the sequential display of multiple input/output device profiles on the scanner panel and the use of DATA FORMAT values coincident with input/output device profiles. These passages in Yamamoto have no apparent relevance to the display of choices for the sequence in which output devices are actuated. For this additional reason, Claim 6 distinguishes over Yamamoto.

Claim 10 requires multiple duplicator selections displayed on a single display screen that, when plural selections are made, simultaneously initiates duplication tasks on each of the user selected duplicators. As noted above for Claim 1, none of the icons in the display shown in Figs. 9A and 9B of Yamamoto actuates any of the scanner or printers represented by the scanner and printer icons. Clicking the "OK" icon in the display of Yamamoto Figs. 9A and 9B establishes a "virtual" connection between a scanner 1 and printers 2 and 3. Yamamoto, column 10, lines 59-66. Clicking the "OK" icon does not actuate either the scanner or the printers. Subsequent acts initiated at the scanner or the printers are required to establish a physical connection between the devices, transfer image data to the printers and then actuate the printers to print the images represented by the image data. See Yamamoto, columns 11 and 12.

In addition, as noted above for Claim 5, Yamamoto does not teach that the actuation of the plural duplicators selected by the user occurs simultaneously. Figs. 9A and 9B in Yamamoto and the accompanying text at column 10 says nothing simultaneously initiating printing on plural printers.

For all of these reasons, Claim 10 distinguishes over Yamamoto.

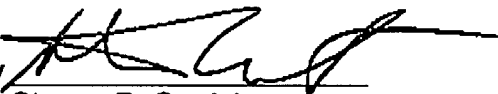
Claims 11-12 also distinguish over Yamamoto due to their dependence on Claim 10.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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